

EZ – אקטואליה

Galilee high-schooler killed after hitching ride

By Jack Khoury

An 18-year-old high-school student from the Galilee community of Yuvalim was found dead in a field yesterday. Police suspect she was murdered and are investigating the possibility that she was sexually assaulted.

The death of the girl, Ma'ayan Ben-Hurin, appears to be the second murder of a young girl in the north of the country over the past two months. The Golan town of Katzrin was severely shaken by the highly publicized death of Tair Rada, a 13-year-old girl who was found dead in the bathroom of her school.

Perhaps in reaction to the publicity surrounding the investigation of that case, a gag order has been imposed on many of the details of the case. Police said the gag order was meant to keep potential suspects from comparing notes before a police interrogation.

Ben-Hurin's body was found in a field near the Galilee town of Yodfat yesterday afternoon, 48 hours after she was last reported to be seen. The discovery marked the culmination of an intensive search involving a helicopter, mounted police and many volunteers.

A police official said yesterday that even if it turns out that the suspects in the case are Arab, police do not think Ben-Hurin's death was terror-related.

"The investigation is focusing on the criminal angle, but we will not rule out any other direction for the investigation at this stage," said Avi Edri, the spokesman for the Northern District police force.

Ben-Hurin left school at 2 P.M. Monday and was planning to go to a goat farm near Yodfat, having made an appointment with the owners to discuss the possibility of getting a job there, said her father, Avri. She got a ride with a teacher, who was planning to take her to Yodfat junction, where she was planning to hitch a ride to the farm.

On the way, she asked the teacher to stop at a gas station near the village of Kauchab Abu-Alhija so she could buy some cigarettes. Her father told Haaretz that the teacher tried to convince her not to get out there, but that she insisted on doing so.

The last person known to have spoken to Ma'ayan Ben-Hurin was a friend she called to try to convince her to go with her to the goat farm. The friend refused to come. Family members said the cell phone conversation ended suddenly.

Later on, Ben-Hurin's parents called one of her friends from Hararit, near Yodfat, where their daughter had planned to spend the night. When the friend told them Ben-Hurin had not shown up or called to explain, her parents began to worry.

They called Ben-Hurin's friends, but were unable to locate her. Her mother, Rivka, said Ma'ayan was slated to take a matriculation test in civics on Tuesday and that she had studied hard for it and would make sure not to miss it. Late Monday night, the Ben-Hurin family reported Ma'ayan missing and asked friends to help search for her.

Police officials said that Ben-Hurin's body had been difficult to locate. They informed her parents and two sisters, Einat and Re'ut, of their discovery yesterday afternoon and sent Ben-Hurin's body for an autopsy.

VOCABULARY

schooler - תלמיד בית ספר

Galilee - גליל (חבל הארץ)

possibility - אפשרות

assaulted - הותקף, נאנס

severely - קשות, בחומרה

publicized - מפורסם

Perhaps - אולי

in reaction - בתגובה

surrounding - מקיף, סובב, אופף

gag order - צו איסור פירסום

impose - לכפות, לאכוף

potential - אפשרי, פוטנציאלי

comparing notes - להחליף רשמים, לתאם גרסאות

interrogation - חקירה, תשאול

discovery - גילוי, תגלית

culmination - שיא, פיסגה

intensive - נמרץ, מוגבר, אינטנסיבי

volunteers - מתנדבים

rule out - לשלול, להוציא מכלל אפשרות

at this stage - בשלב זה

District - מחוז

appointment - פגישה

junction - צומת

hitch a ride - "לתפוס טרמפ"

convince - לשכנע

insisted - להתעקש

cell phone - טלפון סלולרי

suddenly - לפתע

locate - לאתר

slated - להתייעד

matriculation test - בחינת בגרות

civics - אזרחות

autopsy - ניתוח שלאחר המוות